

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/835,746

Examiner

Thomas K Pham

Applicant(s)

LEE ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 02/09/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,5-32 and 47-50.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 16 April 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Himanshu S. Amin on 02/23/2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 5: change first sentence before the comma (,) to **"The user interface of claim 1"**.

Reasons for Allowance

2. Claims 1, 2, 5-32 and 49-50 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

While Hodorowski (Patent No. 5,530,643) discloses a graphical programming of highly distributed industrial control systems to achieve extremely fast processing time. The graphical language includes a large number of physically distinct modules which emulate elemental electrical functions and sharing the same communications medium. Hodorowski does not disclose a wire cross-reference that provides an indication proximate a wire connector and a hyperlink to the connection. Furthermore, Hodorowski does not provide an indication that a value for a property parameter may not be set manually in the user interface.

Gretta (Patent No. 5,971,581) teaches a user assembling a graphical program or wiring diagram on a screen that comprises function block icons that are linked with one or more wires

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connecting the function block icons. Gretta is silent regarding a hyperlink to a connection associated with the input/output wire connectors or any indication that a property value may not be set manually with a user interface.

And Shu (newly cited non-patent literature “Visual programming: Perspectives and approaches”) discusses the overview concept of visual programming and further concentrates the discussion on the various visual programming languages that enable the users to program with visual expressions. Shu discloses “Wires” connecting icons to define path of data flow from one icon to the next but does not disclose a wire cross-reference that provides an indication proximate a wire connector and a hyperlink to the connection.

None of these references taken either alone or in combination discloses a device for creation and editing of a function block diagram in a controller configuration system having all the claimed features of applicant’s instant invention, specifically including: a wire cross-reference indicia provides an indication proximate a wire connector in the function block diagram representation of a connection associated with a wire connector and a hyperlink to the connection. In addition, a wire block parameter indicia for providing an indication that a value for a parameter associated with the block may not be set manually in the user interface. Also, there is no motivation to combine the references to meet these limitations. It is for these reasons that applicant’s invention defines over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner *Thomas Pham*; whose telephone number is (571) 272-3689, Monday to Thursday from 6:30 AM - 5:00 PM EST or contact Supervisor *Mr. Anthony Knight* at (571) 272-3687.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thomas Pham
Patent Examiner

TP

February 23, 2005



Anthony Knight
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3600